

What makes this so excruciatingly painful to cope with is that Dwayne had just completed the Army Command and General Staff College in Kansas and got the assignment to the Pentagon just three months ago. It was to be the highlight of his career. One would think the military headquarters building would be the safest place in the world to serve.

Dwayne served in the Persian Gulf War and spent two years in Egypt, a scene of many terrorists' attacks, yet came home unscathed. Then this happened.

Dwayne is one of three of my brothers serving this great country in the military: the others are Army Sgt. 1st Class Kim Williams and my identical twin brother, Air Force Staff Sgt. Troy L. Williams. In the back of my mind, I always worried about them being injured or killed in battle. I never imagined one would fall victim to a terrorist attack in our homeland.

#### MORE THAN A STATISTIC

Let me paint a picture of Dwayne to show that my brother is more than a statistic in this senseless tragedy that killed and injured more than 5,000 innocent people.

An 18-year Army veteran who got his start as a paratrooper and ranger at Fort Benning, Ga., Dwayne served in the Persian Gulf War in 1991 and is a highly decorated soldier.

Dwayne is a loving husband to his wife, Tammy, and a devoted father to a 13-year-old daughter, Kelsie, and 17-year-old son, Tyler.

He is the beloved son of my parents, Horace and Pearl Williams, of Jacksonville, AL.

He is a protecting big brother to me and my other two brothers.

He is a star athlete, having lettered in high school football and basketball, then later played for four years on the University of North Alabama football team as a pass receiver. An avid softball player, he helped lead his Army team to victory in competition while in Egypt.

He is a man of strong moral character, who rarely displayed much emotion but is quick to express love in his own quiet way. And he is a friend to many.

To get a true picture of the horrible ordeal and anguish this country has been going through during the past week, simply multiply the devastation my family is experiencing by 6,000—the number of other victims either killed or still missing in these attacks.

It's a numbing, horrible feeling I pray that no other family has to experience themselves. Please pray for all of the victims of these terrible attacks. God bless America.

#### RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING CAREER OF LAUREL GROSHONG

##### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions of a good friend, Laurel Groshong. After serving the citizens of California for thirty-two years, Laurel is retiring from the California Employment Development Department (EDD) on Friday, September 28th, 2001.

Shortly after graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree from UCLA in 1968, Laurel began her career in public service as an Employment Trainee in the Van Nuys, California office of EDD. Moving up the ladder at EDD, in 1972 she transferred to the Canoga Park

EDD office as an ES Officer 11. In 1982, she moved her family to Northern California to take over the Lakeport EDD office as the Assistant Field Office Manager. Then, in 1992, former Governor Pete Wilson appointed Laurel to represent California on special assignment in Washington DC for six months covering labor and employment legislation. Upon her return to Lakeport, she was promoted to Field Office Manager where she has served with distinction until her official retirement.

Along with two close friends, Laurel decided in 1995 to return to graduate school all the while managing an office and taking care of her family. In 1998, she proudly received her Masters Degree in Behavioral Sciences with an emphasis on negotiation and conflict management that has assisted her greatly in the past three years.

Laurel's peers have recognized her with numerous awards for outstanding teamwork, including Outstanding Employer Advisory Committee Coordinator, positive impact quality management, job training partnership training, and EDD division teamwork. The awards she has received reflect upon her dedication to her hometown of Lakeport. She has always shown a strong sense of public service in the tremendous amount of time and resources that she donates to a variety of community organizations and causes.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Laurel both professionally and personally for more than a decade. Throughout my tenure in public office, both as a California State Senator and now as Congressman, she has been a friend that I could turn to for sound advice and counsel on employment issues.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor Laurel Groshong for her outstanding career in public service, please join me in extending the best wishes from the members of the 107th Congress to her upon retirement.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2002

SPEECH OF

##### HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2944) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. HAYES. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of Mr. HOSTETTLER's amendment—a vote in support of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Supreme Court has ruled on this issue—and they said that to force the Boy Scouts to accept homosexual troop leaders would violate their right to free association and would dilute the Scout's message. We must not threaten the Scouts' constitutional freedoms that were clearly upheld by the Supreme Court.

The process of appealing this ruling is costing the Scouts valuable dollars each day that could be better used to benefit the lives of young men—Young men who are being taught

values such as duty to God and country, honor, respect, and community service.

We must send a message that Congress will uphold the full benefits of freedom of association, and that the Scouts, a private organization, may continue to define their own leadership and promote core American values that have been taught to children for over a century. I urge my fellow members to vote in favor of the Hostettler amendment.

#### AIR 2001 TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND SYSTEM STABILIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

##### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2926, legislation that will help our nation's air infrastructure recover from the shocking terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The September 11 tragedy dealt a dual blow to the airline industry; not only did American and United Airlines lose highly esteemed pilots and flight attendants in these violent hijackings, the subsequent federal shutdown of the airways also had a severe financial impact on carriers and led to the layoffs of more than 100,000 workers. Our air infrastructure supports the American economy by transporting goods and people across this great nation, and its continued strength is essential to the ongoing economic health of the United States. However, airlines also provide an opportunity to exercise the American freedom of movement. Every year, millions of Americans use air travel to visit their friends and families, take vacations, and conduct business throughout the country. Congress is now poised to bolster the airlines and restore confidence in our ability to fly.

H.R. 2926 will provide \$5 billion in immediate cash assistance to airlines to compensate for losses incurred during the federal grounding order. The measure also includes \$10 billion in loan guarantees to help airlines adjust to the lingering effects of the September 11 attacks. By promoting the continued viability of air travel, this legislation will also assist other businesses reliant on the airline industry such as aircraft manufacturers, travel agents, rental car agencies, hotels, and other travel- and tourism-related companies—all of whom have been adversely affected by the recent slowdown in air travel. Coupled with significant improvements in airline and airport safety, which I urge Congress to address in the immediate future, H.R. 2926 will stabilize and restore confidence in air travel.

However, I am quite dismayed that this legislation contains no provisions to help the 100,000 workers in the airline and airline-related sectors who have lost their jobs in the aftermath of September 11. If we truly hope to boost our nation's economy, we must ensure that these men and women receive unemployment benefits, as well as the educational and retraining assistance needed to minimize the transition time between jobs. Additionally, Congress must enact legislation to provide these families federally-subsidized COBRA health insurance during this difficult time.